In the light of the above requirements and keeping in view that the passage of the Bill is likely to take some time, it is proposed to provide for the requisite institutional and coordination mechanism and powers for undertaking mitigation measures as also mechanism for ensuring preparedness and capacity building to handle disasters during the interim period. It is, therefore, proposed to set up a National Disaster Management Authority as associated Committees by executive orders immediately, in accordance with the provisions of the proposed Bill, pending enactment of the law. These institutional and coordination mechanisms will be modified in the line with statutory provisions after the passage of the Bill.

In the meantime, action has already been taken to earmark 8 battalions of Central Para Military Forces, from their existing strength, to be trained and equipped to function as specialist response teams. Training of trainers for responding to natural disasters has been completed. Similar training for responding to radiological, biological and chemical emergencies has also been undertaken. 18 specialist response teams have already been trained for responding to natural disaster.

Communication is of the utmost importance in coordinating response to a disaster. An Emergency Communication Plan has been approved and is under implementation for providing communication linkages among national, State and District level Emergency Operation Centres and the Mobile Communication Units to be set up at the sites of disasters.

The National Institute of Disaster Management was set up through issue of an executive order is October, 2003. After the passage of the Bill, necessary notification for setting up of the National Institute of Disaster Management will be issued with appropriate modifications, if any, to ensure that it conforms with the law.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next statement. ...(*Interruptions*)... I think we can take both the statements.

Relief and Rehabilitation of Tsunami Affected People

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the second statement is a very long statement. I seek your permission to lay it on the Table of the House. This is a statement which relates to the steps which have been taken by the Government at the national, State and district level. Now, this is a statement which was asked for by the

hon. Members so that they would be able to discuss this issue in great detail. Therefore, I am laying it on the Table of the House with an expection that is would be read by the hon. Members.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, yesterday during Question Hour when this issue came up for discussion in this House, the Members demanded that tsunami should be discussed in this House. I request the Deputy Chairman to fix up a time for it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We had decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the issue of tsunami would be taken up in the form of a discussion. Should we discuss then or should we seek clarifications?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: हमने बी॰ए॰सी॰ में डिस्कस किया है कि सुनामी के डिस्कशन के लिए एक दिन फिक्स किया जाए।

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, since two issues are related to it and the BAC has already taken this into consideration, we can have a fullfledged discussion on tsunami and the National Disaster Management Authority because it has a bearing on that.

श्री उपसभापति: क्या करना है?

श्रीमति सुषमा स्वराज (उत्तरांचल): उपसभापति जी, क्लैरिफिकेशन्स हो सकते थे। क्लैरिफिकेशन अपने आप में डिस्कशन ही हो जाता है।

श्री उपसभापति: हां, डिस्कशन ही हो जाता है।

श्रीमति सुषमा स्वराज: राज्य सभा में सब लोग सवाल पूछेंगे, बाद में मंत्री जी जवाब देंगे।

श्री उपसभापति: डिस्कशन तो हमने फिक्स किया है, उस वक्त इसको ले सकते हैं। Already the Business Advisory Committee has taken a decision.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Let the statement be circulated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The statement has been circulated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The second statement has not been circulated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will be circulated. I adjourn the House till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 11th March 2005.

MGIPMRND—71RS—22.06.2005.